SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — July 17, 1972

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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American honour and its detractors

NO doubt the 8-years long War of Independence (1775-1783) marked an important stage in world history. The July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence ranks among the monuments of political and juridical literature of modern times. The 1787 Constitution, four years senior to the 1791 French Constitution is the first modern republican constitution of the federative type.

80 years later, the young American republic, land of promise of emigrants in search of fortune and freedom, had to undergo a tough test: the War of Secession, from which it emerged with honour. Not only was her unity preserved, but the principle of abolition of slavery was upheld.

George Washington, hero of the American Revolution, and Abraham Lincoln, champion of anti-slavery who laid down his life for the cause, belong to the class of great men who are credits to humanity.

WE, Vietnamese, feel great respect and love for the American Declaration of Independence whose revolutionary spirit has been always alive in this second half of the 20th century:

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It was not at all by chance that those words ringing with justice and humanity were quoted in the preamble of our own Declaration of Independence of September 2, 1945 whose author was no one else than the venerated founding father of the Vietnamese nation, Uncle Ho Chi Minh.

The following paragraph of the American Declaration of Independence is also worth mentioning:

"That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government become destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

It is the formulation, though of two centuries of age but still of topical validity, of the great democratic principle of the people's self-determination, which is the cornerstone of contemporary international law.

The citizens of the United States of America, a great federation of more 200 million people, can be rightly proud of their 1776 Declaration of Independence as well as of their elders who gallantly fought and died for the ideals expounded therein which have now become the very objectives of the struggle of the oppressed peoples and of the Vietnamese alike.

BUT they should beware of impostesr detractors whounder the pretext of defending US honour and traditions sully the Stars and Stripes and its international image.

Everyone still has in mind the indignant outburst of the famous American writer Mark Twain against the landing of 70,000 Marines by Yankee imperialism to stamp out the Philippines movement for independence, as early as in 1898. What would the great satirist say now about the armed intervention and aggression of his country against the Vietnamese since 1950?

What would he think of the present defamers of US honour and more particularly of Richard M. Nixon, who objectionably got admitted into the White House on an electoral pledge he has not fulfilled to end the Viet Nam war within 6 months?

The killing not only has not been stopped but even intensified and extended; the partial cutbacks of GI's have been amply made good with the forcible drafting of native troops and with an over-deployment of air and naval forces muscled by a formidable devastating power in support actions, or often in replacement of the client army who puts up too poor a show.

The crimes which "makes stones cry out" piled up for long years of armed intervention and direct aggression have experienced a recrudescence under Nixon. To such an extent that the qualifications endorsed by international law after the second world war have proved inadequate and called for additional ones. The Nixon "Vietnamized" war, a new form of the neo-colonialist crime against the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples' fundamental national rights and self-determination, is not only a crime against peace, a crime against humanity, an aggregate of thousands of war crimes stricto sensu and a genocide, it is also compounded by biocide and ecocide. The 3rd International Conference on Genocide held in May 1972 in Santiago de Cuba described it moreover as a sociocide, a crime of dehumanization and a crime against human environment.

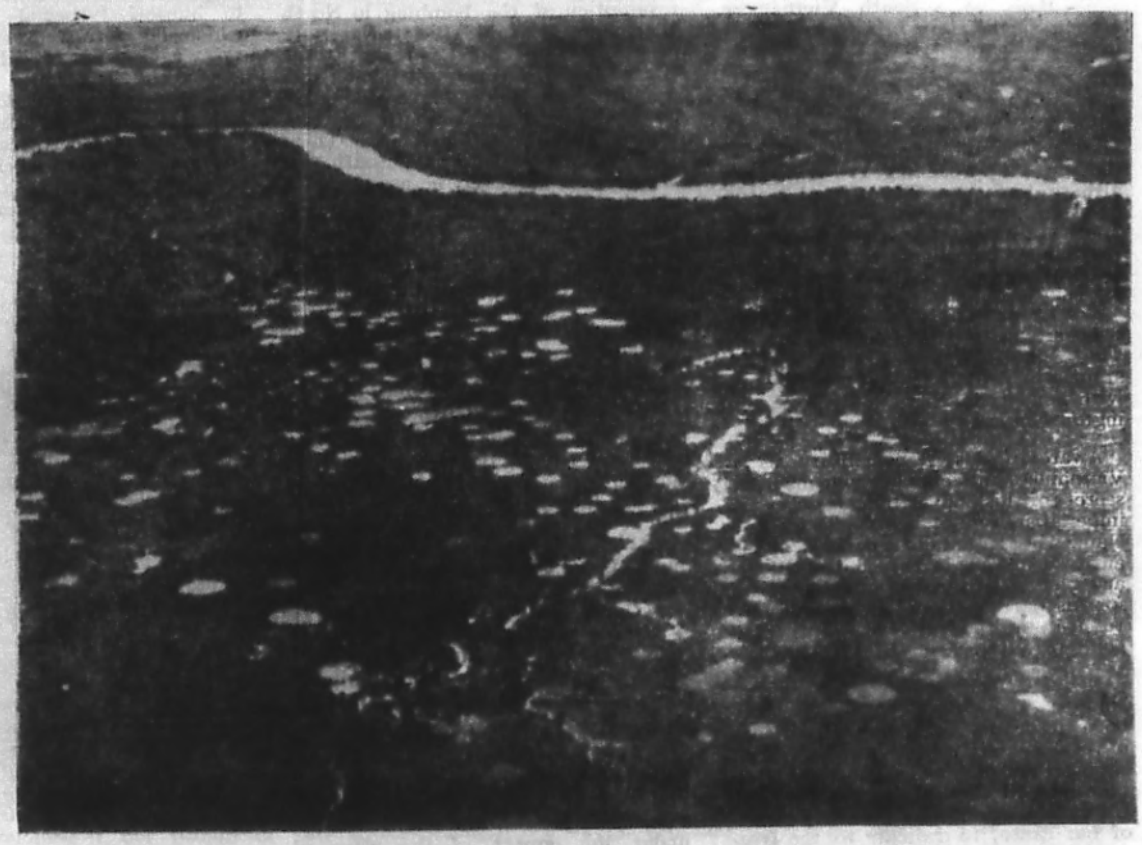
Soon mankind will run short of words to depict the incumbent US President to whom on cannot but repeat these two lines put by Racine in the mouth of Agrippina lashing out at her son Nero:

For future generations, thy name will, in infamy,
Outshine that of the most cruel tyrants.

NIXON's odiousness has been aggravated by his continued crimes committed in the name of American honour and by his charges that it is the Vietnamese who do harm to it.

It is up to the courageous peace fighters on the other side of the Atlantic and the American people to

(Continued on page 3)



Carpet-bombing craters on the soil of Viet Nam
It is Nixon who smears America's honour

NEARLY 120 POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVE PER SECOND

SHOWING little concern for public opinion, Nixon has been indulging in a saturnalia of crimes, by visiting on the South Vietnamese untold destruction and deaths with the means of a formidable panoply of bombs and up-to-date war engines.

At a press conference convened by the French Peace Movement in Paris on June 21, 1971 to denounce US crimes against the Vietnamese, Professor E.W. Pfeiffer who had visited both North and South Viet Nam four times, revealed that US aircraft had dropped on the whole of Indochina a tonnage of bombs three times that used in all theatres of operations during World War II. In South Viet Nam alone, since the beginning of 1972, US airplanes and warships had been using enormous amount of bombs and shells to level off whole villages, especially the newly-liberated areas, causing considerable human and material losses to the local people. On an average, US air planes including strategic B-52 dump 100,000 bombs a month on populated areas. On certain days they poured 7,700 tons of bombs or the equivalent of a 1945 Hiroshima atomic every 3 days. Bombing has been recently stepped up. Since May 30, 1972, B-52 planes have been throwing 146,000 tons of bombs and other kinds of aircraft 72,000 tons on South Viet Nam, that is nearly 120 pounds of explosive every second.

US air force and navy have been adding monstrous crimes to those committed by infantrymen during "sweeps," against civilians throughout South Viet Nam. The number of US aircraft in South Viet Nam now totals over 1,000, that is 600 more than in 1971, that of strategic B-52s in South-East Asia 160, by far surpassing the highest figure under Johnson. On May 24, 1972, Washington ordered more F-4s to Takhli airbase, Thailand, raising to 82 their number to be flown in strikes against Viet Nam. Most fighter-bomber planes of the US marines previously withdrawn from South Viet Nam have been sent back there on Nixon's orders. On US warships off the Viet Nam coast, the strength of marines now reaches 17,000. On May 1, 1972, 5,000 marines were transferred from US bases in Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, and hundreds of officers from Fort Benning, to Saigon and Danang to take a direct part in the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

In 1971, the Nixon administration cut down medical, educational and social expenditures by 3 billion dollars to finance the air war against Viet Nam. In South Viet Nam, US planes have been bombing populated areas into deserts. Bombing and strafing of newly-liberated areas in Quang Tri, Binh Long, the Central Highlands, Binh Dinh, etc, has grown more indiscriminate and more furious. Certain places have been completely blotted out, such as a number of villages in Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts (Quang Tri province), the urban centres of Hoai An and Bac Phu (Binh Dinh province), many hamlets and villages in Quang Nam province, both sides of Vam Co Dong River (Long An province). The U Minh forest, covering an area of several thousand hectares, has been severely ravaged.

What is more barbarous, in recent days the US imperialists have been deploying new kinds of weapons against civilians in liberated areas, for instance the TOW missile, and the electronically guided bomb. Each day US planes drop 250 pounds of bombs on an average on each hectare of South Viet Nam land. The number of dead and wounded since January 1972, from actions by US planes and ships, has risen to 12,572 according to incomplete statistics.

Besides round-ups, mass arrests and lootings during "sweeps" by ground troops, since the beginning of 1972 the US-Saigon Command have been using helicopters and various kinds of fighter planes to terrorize the civilians and force them out of their native places. In Quang Tri-Thua Thien, and some localities of Quang Nam and Central Highlands, since April 1972, 34,000 people (24,000 of Vietnamese nationality and 10,000 ethnic minority people) have been apprehended during round-ups by US aircraft and sent to concentration camps and jails labelled "refugees camps." The concentration camp population in the Danang area alone has shot up from 250,000 to 500,000. They are living there a life of utter misery, exposed to famine and all sorts of diseases. On May 24, 1972, C-130 planes ferried 10,000 hill people detained in concentration camps in Pleiku to deserted islands. More people will be so deported, as announced by US authorities.

No matter what kind of rhetoric is employed by Nixon and his men — "defence of security", "aid to refugees", etc. — to conceal such atrocities, it is clear to everyone that they are committing a crime of genocide similar to that against the Indians in the USA, one of the most horrendous crimes in history.

Of no less atrociousness has been Nixon's escalated bombing, strafing and his mining of ports and destruction of dykes in North Viet Nam. Air and naval actions without limitation of targets and B-52 "carpet bombing" against populated centres, especially Haiphong city, exterminating raids against Nam Dinh city, have roused universal anger and condemnation of the US President.

But such an outburst is no indication of strength, it is rather a desperate attempt of someone at the end of his tether. It is also something of a kind of suicide.

ABOUT STUDENT NGUYEN THAI BINH'S MURDER

ACCORDING to Western reports, on July 2 last Nguyen Thai Binh, 28, a South Vietnamese student in the United States, was shot dead on board a PANAM 747 jumbo jet.

The plane took off from San Francisco for Saigon via Honolulu and Manila. The murder took place as the plane was approaching Tan Son Nhut airbase in Saigon. The official reason given for the death of the Vietnamese youth was that "he tried to hijack the plane and divert it to Hanoi in order to protest the US bombing of North Viet Nam."

According to *AFP* and *UPI*, Nguyen Thai Binh had just completed his studies in Seattle and got his degree with honours in fisheries at the Washington University.

Aware of his responsibility as a Vietnamese citizen, he had made no secret of his opposition to the US imperialist war of aggression in Viet Nam. He had taken part in many anti-war actions in the United States, and had been shadowed and arrested for his participation in the February 10 sit-in at the residence of the Saigon representative in New York.

Right before leaving for Saigon, Nguyen Thai Binh had written an open letter to Nixon and all friends of peace and justice in the world, saying that he was going home "to take part in the resistance against the US aggression, to confirm the justness of our cause, to dedicate to the freedom fighters of Viet Nam, living and dead," *AP* reports said.

Nguyen Thai Binh had shown his extreme indignation at Nixon's resumption of the bombing in North Viet Nam. He told an anti-war rally in the US on April 19 that "the United States was committing terrible war crimes by the massive air strikes on both North and South of Viet Nam." He charged Nguyen Van Thieu of savage repression in the South Viet Nam cities. However, he asserted, for all the Saigon brutalities the people in South Viet Nam, especially the students and intellectuals, continued their effort to give the world's peoples a clearer picture of the situation.

Out of his love for the Fatherland, he had deemed it his duty to "speak out the aspirations of the people of my long martyred country."

Many things remain unclear about the murder of Nguyen Thai Binh. But one thing is certain: his activities against the war of aggression, against the bellicose Nguyen Van Thieu clique for which he had been persecuted, must be at the bottom of his death on the home-bound plane.

To cover their crime, the US and Nguyen Van Thieu clique put out very sensational details about the "hijacking of the PANAM 747". Everyone knows that on US orders, Nguyen Van Thieu has placed all the areas under his temporary control in an emergency state with every fascist law imaginable in an attempt to ward off the total collapse of his administration under the impact of the wave of offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam people.

After usurping power from the Saigon "Senate", Thieu has arrogated to himself "special powers" with which he forced every man in the 17-43 age group to enlist in the Saigon army. The Thieu administration has also ordered all South Viet Nam students who have got their "academic military certificates" to report to induction centres before July 1972.

Along with this measure, the Saigon ruling clique has closed down the Hue university with a view to setting up the "Thuan Hoa Division". With regard to overseas South Vietnamese students, it has cancelled their money transfer orders and scholarships and issued them air tickets with injunction to return to Saigon without delay and join the army.

The death of Nguyen Thai Binh cannot be dissociated from that lurid background of the present fascist regime of the US-Thieu clique in South Viet Nam.

The arrest of his father, Mr Nguyen Van Hai, 53, a clerk at the Saigon port, and detention of his mother and sister following the assassination of Nguyen Thai Binh has thrown additional light on the whole affair.

With his blood, student Nguyen Thai Binh scored Nixon's aggression on a placard held high in a demonstration (May 1972) in Seattle, USA

10-point policy for South Viet Nam liberated areas

UNITY, SOURCE OF STRENGTH OF OUR REVOLUTIONARY POWER

A major policy of the National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government has been enforced in the newly-liberated areas of South Viet Nam, a policy both sensible and reasonable, conducive to an atmosphere of enthusiasm and mutual comprehension between various social segments, a policy of national union and national concord.

Prompted by the ancient tradition of the nation and the dearest feeling of the people, national union and national concord has been viewed by the NFL right from its founding as a source of combativeness and a factor of victory of the South Vietnamese. The righteous Political Program of the NFL points out that it advocates a "policy of a very large union of all social segments, all political forces, nationalities, religions and individuals irrespective of political tendencies and past records, provided that they now stand for peace, independence and neutrality." In the midst of the early Spring 1968 offensives and uprisings, the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces was born. It is an alliance of anti-US, anti-Thieu patriotic forces in South Vietnamese cities, rallying people of various classes representative of differing political and religious tendencies and social organizations. The formation of the RSVN PRG was entirely based upon the oneness of mind as to the anti-US national salvation line of the NFL and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, which are the embodiment of the unity of the nation in both towns and countryside. It was also a fine display of the spirit of national concord which puts the fatherland's interests above anything else. The proclamation by the PRG of its 10-point policy aimed at opening a wider path to national salvation and self-liberation for officers and men of the Saigon army and for those families whose members are still fighting in the enemy ranks against their fellow countrymen, provided a clearer proof of the revolution's sincere desire to join hands and coordinate action with all those who have national independence and freedom at heart.

People in the liberated area resolved to hold on their land and preserve power

In newly-liberated areas, revolutionary power is totally in the people's hands. The reactionary quisling administration has been completely removed, but the wounds of war are still very grievous, calamities and sufferings left behind by the US aggressors still manyfold and the enemy is scheming dark designs to undermine the new regime. Face to this situation, our people in newly-liberated areas irrespective of fortune, nationality, religious creeds, political leaning, are uniting and taking an active part in the keeping of law and order and the restoration and intensification of production. They are ready to fight and shatter all manoeuvres and acts of sabotage of the enemy, thwart his counter-attacks, build up and consolidate the newly-liberated areas thus contributing to completely defeating the US aggressors and their Nguyen Van Thieu client administration. Revolutionary families, families of war dead, war invalids and liberation fighters are shown grateful solicitude by the revolutionary power. All social segments endeavouring to apply the policies of the revolutionary power are treated with due consideration. No discrimination is observed against families having their members forcibly drafted into the Saigon army; on the contrary they are encouraged by the revolutionary power to call on their sons, husbands or brothers to return to their homes and go over to the people's side. In accordance with the proclaimed policy of the NFL and PRG, the revolutionary power shows readiness to cooperate with all forces, tendencies and individuals favouring peace, independence, neutrality and eager to coordinate efforts with other social strata in resisting US aggression and removing the Nguyen Van Thieu administration, in the interests of the nation. The US-Thieu rule has spread the vicious rumour that the revolutionary, once victorious, will take reprisals against certain people. But facts of the last few months in the newly-liberated areas are there to give them the lie. Our people in those areas are now having an opportunity to look back at the past and see through the whole aggression of US imperialism and the slavish behaviour of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique. With their "Vietnamization," they have been brutally "using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese" and carrying out wholesale bombing, strafing, "mopping-up" operations of an exterminating character, and bloody massacres of patriots, oldagers, women and children. With his "four nays" position, Nguyen Van Thieu has been treating anyone standing for peace and neutrality as his enemy and drowning in blood our fellow countrymen's drives for peace. Thousands of personalities, intellectuals and even rival clans opposing Thieu's reactionary policy have fallen victims to his atrocities. His true colours as an agent of the US, a fascist and blood-thirsty dictator have been revealed more clearly than ever.

Unity is a course of strength and a factor of victory over the enemy. It is a valueless tradition of the Vietnamese nation. Strengthening and further developing it, our people in SVN newly-liberated areas are determined to overcome all difficulties and hardships and actively help the anti-US patriotic resistance achieve complete victory.

in the cities

o On June 24, representatives of Sicovina workers marched on the Saigon Labour Ministry to protest Thieu aiding and abetting employers to intensify exploitation of workers and lay them off en masse so as to facilitate the draft and beef up the troop strength. Worker representatives resolutely urged reinstatement of the dismissed workers and cessation of the persecution of workers on the strength of Thieu's 9 fascist measures.

Many trade unions in Saigon declared support for the Sicovina textile workers' action.

o Recently Thieu's Tax Audit office sent its agents to various markets and enterprises in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area to squeeze out more tax returns and blackmail businessmen and industrialists. Merchants and producers in Saigon are strongly resisting this predatory move and describe it as a large-scale terror campaign against businessmen and industrialists aimed at scraping up their money to fill the serious gap in the war budget.

o On June 20, businessmen and industrialists held an emergency meeting at which they scored the Thieu-controlled bank's substantial rise in the interest rates on loans while taxes kept increasing and their goods crowded port warehouses. They demanded a lower income tax and interest rates on bank loans, and clearance of goods from warehouses with the guarantee of the Bank to avoid losses.

o On June 19, field and military police and civil guards in Bien Hoa provincial capital cordoned off the streets and tightly encircled the Catholic residential quarters and 5 churches for troop impress. They broke into the churches, rounded up people who were attending masses and took away hundreds of people in the 17-43 age group. Parents, wives and children of the arrested and Catholic priests immediately discontinued the service, and put up a stiff resistance to this police violence.

o In June, the Thieu clique ordered seizure of 141 issues of Saigon dailies for their "favourable comments on communism and neutrality." Meanwhile Thieu's court sentenced 4 Saigon journalists to 15 days' imprisonment and fined 6 others. Twelve Saigon newspapers were also fined a total of 1.73 million piastres.

American honour...

(Continued from page 1)

judge whether Nixon is the champion or the greatest defamer of the honour of their federation.

To our mind, American honour does exist and is defended not only by statesmen like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, by scientists like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison, by thinkers, poets and novelists like Ralph Emerson, Edgar Poe and Beecher-Stowe, but also by the present combatants and martyr of peace like Morrison and the Kent State University Four.

It has never occurred and will never occur to us to humiliate the US nation with whom Mme Nguyen Thi Binh's seven points have suggested establishment of diplomatic, economic and cultural relations, on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence and after the safe and honourable departure of the American troops from South Viet Nam and from Indochina.

Indubitably American honour and prestige have been brutally hurt by the deeds of Johnsons and Nixons in Viet Nam and in Indochina. But not all is lost. It is incumbent on the American people as a whole to do what their best sons and daughters have been doing in the peace drive and offensives, i.e. impose their will on the Nixon Administration and the one succeeding it on January 20, 1973 to have an end brought to the criminal aggression against Viet Nam and Indochina and restore a just and lasting peace founded on the respect of the legitimate interests and rights and of the national honour of the peoples concerned.

RESOUNDING EXPLOITS IN BOTH ZONES

OVER the past three months, the army and people in the whole country have been fighting brilliantly, following up their successes and promoting their offensive posture and have brought the resistance against the US for national salvation to a new high and achieved unprecedented gains.

By resorting to the three-spearhead strategy, combining military actions and uprisings and big, middle and small-size unit operations all over the three strategic zones, the army and people of South Viet Nam have dealt the US-Saigon regime telling blows. The People's Liberation Armed Forces have engaged Saigon troops in violent fighting in their very strongholds. From the main force divisions and units of the general strategic reserved forces such as the marines, the paratroopers, the commandos, to the "people's self-defence" and the militiamen, all have been battered. Their system of strategic defence which enjoys maximum US cover provided by naval forces and artillery has been broken through and damaged in many important places. The Liberation troops have fought big-scale extermination battles in Dong Da, Quang Tri, Loc Ninh, Binh Long, Dak To, Tan Canh, etc. Following the Quang Tri victory, the People's Liberation Armed Forces have been active on nearly all battlefields, exacting a heavy toll from the Saigon army in Thua Thien, Kontum, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Binh Long, Tay Ninh, Ba Ria, Long Khanh, My Tho, Ben Tre, An Giang, Rach Gia, Ca Mau, Kien Tuong, etc.

DUE to the lamentable setbacks suffered by the Saigon soldiers on various battlefronts, their morale has been at a critical low ebb, the movement of desertion, disbandment and collective war protest has been on the upgrade. Agitation among the enemy troops based on the 10-point policy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government regarding Saigon troops and families with members drafted by force to die in the place of the US aggressors, has incited series of Saigon units to rise up and cross over to the people's side with their arms to take part in the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation. The "people's self-defence" has been disintegrating by big chunks. However US-Thieu active impress of youths and troop upgrading has not been able to make good the gaps in their army strength and their local forces have been seriously depleted. The Saigon troops have been obliged to narrow down their occupation areas. However they have had to be scattered and have been pinned down on dangerous battlegrounds and badly mauled. The US paper *Baltimore Sun* wrote on June 19, 1972 that the South Viet Nam army is stretched to the utmost and has collapsed in several important strategic points.

IN combining military attacks and popular uprisings and basing themselves on the all-sided development of guerilla warfare all over the three zones, the army and people of South Viet Nam

have mounted onsets against series of military sectors and military posts, sanctuaries of Saigon functionaries, secret agents, "pacification" agents and thugs, wiping out and disbanding a substantial part of the enemy coercive force, pulling down a host of strategic hamlets, particularly in the plains in the centre of Trung Bo and Nam Bo. 2,000,000 more people have recovered control of their land; the adverse machine of oppression and repression has been shattered in Quang Tri province, in tens of districts, in hundreds of villages, in thousands of hamlets. Extensive liberated areas have been formed, which makes it possible to expand the resistance forces in respect.

The great advance made over the past three months of offensives and uprisings have given a new impetus to the South Viet Nam revolution's position and strength, secured a firm foothold whence to bring resistance activity into the occupied areas, to assist the urban population in stepping up their struggle and plunged the US-Saigon regime into an all-round and unending crisis. The traitor Nguyen Van Thieu has resorted to fascist measures, terrorizing the people, cracking down on the opposition camp, striving to monopolize powers. However he has not been able to help his US boss save his deliquescent neo-colonialist regime. The paper *Le Monde Diplomatique* commented in June 1972: "Nixon has not any recipe to settle any problem created by the moribund Saigon regime and to cope with the ever growing military potential of the Vietnamese revolutionaries. The much-publicized successes of the pacification programme have gone up in smoke."

The 6A Infantry Unit newly cited Hero

THE rising tide of offensives and uprisings launched by the South Viet Nam PLAF and people during the past three months has rapidly pushed Nixon's "Vietnamization," onto the brink of disaster. The Saigon army, backbone of "Vietnamization", is on its last legs and disbanding. The pacification programme, its main strategic measure, has failed. To save the situation, stubborn hawk Nixon, a hun of this era, has adventurously escalated the war to a most dangerous level, reinforced his air and naval forces on an unprecedented scale by mounting extermination strikes, massacring civilians and wiping out life in both zones. What is particularly serious is that the US air and naval forces have blockaded with mines our ports and destroyed dykes of North Viet Nam on the eve of the spate season. Nixon has gone beyond the limits of his much-advertised "Vietnamization." His criminal war escalation has not in any way proved US strength but instead has exposed more clearly than ever US weakness, passivity and stalemate and the humiliating failure of "Vietnamization." The new air and naval war waged by Nixon against North Viet Nam has been unable to prevent the wave of offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam PLAF and people, and has been instead duly checked by the army and people of North Viet Nam and severely condemned by public opinion, foreign and domestic.

OVER the past three months, the heroic army and people of North Viet Nam have brought down over 260 US aircraft, including eight B-52s, set fire to US warships 50 times, knocked out of action hundreds of US air pirates. From Vinh Linh, Quang Binh to the North and Northwest, from Hanoi to Haiphong, Nam Dinh... wherever the US air pirates intrude they are dealt terrible blows. The sky-wide net of fire from missile and anti-aircraft outfits, low-level infantry weapons of the militia, self-defence units and air forces has been responsible for remarkable feats of arms. The traffic on main arteries has been kept going. All the needs of the great front have been adequately and timely met. The US aggressors' bombs and bullets have heaped up innumerable crimes but they cannot prevent the Vietnamese from reaping a bumper crop of victories in both South and North. The exploits are a paean to the determination to fight and win of the Vietnamese people. Braving the showers of bombs and bullets, the people of both zones have stood up to all trials, difficulties and hardships, held aloft the standard of justice and of the invincible resistance to US aggression, for national salvation. Their achievements are the victory of the correct and creative political line, of the matchless force of solidarity between kindred North and South Viet Nam, of their revolutionary heroism and of their determination to completely defeat the US aggressors and regain the independence and freedom of the Fatherland. It is also the triumph of the closely-combined efforts of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries and of the valuable support and aid of our friends all over the five continents.

THE whole country has been ringing with praises to our advances. The decision of the South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government to commend many heroic units and heroes of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and that of the National Assembly and Government of the DRVN to award honours to many outfits and individuals of the Transport and Communications branch are a stimulus for the army and people of both zones. The "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" message incites us to continue to advance impetuously, to persevere in, and step up our fight, to defeat all frenzied war escalations of the US imperialists, to completely thwart Nixon's "Vietnamization," and together with the brotherly peoples of Laos and Cambodia to bring to complete victory the resistance against the US, for national salvation of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries.

BINH NGUYEN

Combatants of Company 5 in the PLAF Armoured Units before the fight

VALIANT ANTI-TANK FIGHTER *LUC VINH TUONG*

LUC VINH TUONG, 21, a well-built gunner, affectionately hugged the anti-tank shell which had just been issued to him. His CO grasped his large and strong hands and asked him, smiling: "Are you sure to home it, Tuong?"

"Oh, yes, Comrade. I'm cocksure that each bullet of mine is a kill."

His usually soft voice waxed loud and clear and instilled confidence into his mates who commented: "The shell is in the right hand!"

Thong was eventually commended in a training course as an elite anti-tank gunner and sent to a shooting contest where he was rated as a sharpshooter.

He thought to himself that to deserve this honour, nothing was better for him than train painstakingly so as to help his unit crush the enemy's thick armour and give efficient assistance to friendly units in their assaults.

He was told that a counter-attack would be made the following morning at 7 o'clock by an enemy infantry unit covered by armoured vehicles and that Section 15 would have to wipe out the armoured squadron defending Height 35 and open up as soon as possible to nip the enemy move in the bud.

On a moonlit night, Tuong and his mates prepared the battleground on a hill ploughed up by ordnance and crisscrossed with tracks of caterpillars.

All preparations were completed on April 23 at 5 a.m. A spotter plane flew low under favour of the morning mist but apart from the bomb and shell craters and shrubs of wild vegetation, it was unable to detect anything, and vanished at 6 a.m. From then on, the drone of engines and creaking of enemy caterpillars tore the air with their dins.

"The plan shows the higher level's insight!" Luyen, a gunner of Battery No 2, commented and was cheered by Tuong who said with a smile: "It's time to do 'business'. This is for us the best drill-ground."

With his hands tight on the control levers and his eyes riveted on the nearest M-41, he trained his gun on it and whispered to himself: On the go order, I'll dispatch you instantly."

Suddenly, a signal was given. From behind, our artillery shells began to pound Height 35 (Dong Quai Vac), zipping past over our heads.

It was 6.38 a.m. The enemy tanks scattered in all directions to dodge our fire. We were able to count them one by one: five to the southwest, two to the southeast, three in the centre (range of Platoon 2).

"Tuong, fire at the first tank southwest of Height 35!"

Tuong saw CO Luc by his side. He zeroed in on the M-41 appearing in full on the hill slope and said to his superior: "Spotted it."

At 6.40 a.m., Luc gave the go signal, opening the battle. Tuong closely followed the movement of the mastodon and took aim. The bullet flew off, emitting a trail of smoke.

Four, then five seconds passed by; it whizzed forth at an altitude which made Luc smile approvingly.

At the sixth second, the tank exploded, took fire and jerked to a stop. Tuong's mates jumped for joy and focused their attention on the vehicles assigned to them.

Our shells continued to lob in many directions including Height 35. Soon, heartening reports streaming the unit:

"Luyen has destroyed an M-41 after spending all his ammunition."

"With a second bullet Tuong had done short work of another tank."

"Hiep has smashed an M-41 with three shots,"

"Tuong has scored a third direct hit with his third shell."

As Luyen found difficulties in dealing with an M-41 about to disappear at a turning, Luc called Tuong for help: the vehicle was blown up when it reappeared in a field of tiger grass.

It was 6.45 a.m. After 4 minutes of engagement, Unit 15 knocked out seven tanks shoutheast and southwest of Height 35, 4 of which went to Tuong's credit.

Frightened, the two M-41s in the centre were about to take to flight when one was set afire by Luong, of a friendly unit. Having seen two tanks trying to run to the other side of the hill, Tuong blasted one to pieces with his fifth shell.

With this effective artillery cover, our infantrymen took Height 35 at 7 o'clock in the morning and made a junction there to push further.

To dispose of the last enemy tank hidden in a corner, Tuong was left alone with a shell while his unit was ordered back for another mission.

Tuong made careful reconnaissance of the northern side of the hill, being sure that the enemy vehicle was taking refuge there and that he would be able to destroy it within an hour at most.

But time elapsed without his sighting his target.

Hidden in a meadow scorched by a merciless sun, he sweated profusely and from time to time sipped what was left of water in his bottle.

At times, losing patience, he thought that perhaps the M-41 had broken down. But the notion was quickly put out of his mind.

At 10 o'clock, he heard a whirr of engine and the cumbersome vehicle slowly left its hiding place. Tuong cautiously readjusted his finder and let off the bullet which set the last enemy tank on fire.

Luc Vinh Tuong was given a hearty welcome by his mates: in a battle in which an enemy armoured squadron was entirely put out of action, he had broken a record by destroying six tanks with six bullets in his baptism of fire.

TRAN QUANG

THE YOUTH OF UNCLE HO'S NATIVE VILLAGE

IN May this year, Uncle Ho's native Sen village was most beautiful. The rows of casuarina and sandalwood trees softly rustled in the wind, a primary school was building and the spring rice was fragrant.

Such a scenery enhanced in the Sen youth the feeling of gratitude to their Uncle and the resolve to act upon his "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" axiom.

Over the past years, the Sen boys and girls had been zealously building their village, making irrigation works and mending roads to keep the supplies flowing to the front line in defiance of enemy bombs and shells. Today, the militia were carrying out a sham fight against the enemy, both in the air and on the ground. The bomb disposal, road repairing, first aid and stretcher-bearing groups were rehearsing their jobs. On moonlit nights all the lanes and alleys were ringing with the song *Let Us Dig Our Defence-Works* far into the night. With spades and pickaxes, they gave the finishing touch to their shelters before daybreak. These would be used both to fight the enemy and protect the villagers' lives and property. The communication battle is regarded by the Youth Union as the central task to maintain the traffic to the front and do their bits in the nation-wide effort to defeat the aggressors.

The news of victory put the Sen boys and girls on their mettle in the repairing of roads. Hundreds of cubic metres of stone and sand were carted and stored in a few chosen places along the roads and at the ferries for all contingencies. In the searing Lao wind, they glowed with eagerness to do something for the front. One after another the Sen boys had also been joining up following their elders' steps. This time, before taking their physical check-up, they underwent an intensive drill to get into fighting trim. Small wonder that the number of eligible boys exceeded the call up. The village conscription committee had to draft more men than required, and 50 youths went to camp in this memorable May, bearing in mind Le Ma Luong's watchword: "So long as there is an enemy, I'll fight him."

NORTH VIETNAMESE PROVINCES AND CITIES emulating in downing US aircraft between August 5, 1964 and July 8, 1972

Quang Binh	658	aircraft
Nghe An	495	—
Thanh Hoa	316	—
Ha Noi	301	—
Vinh Linh	268	—
Hai Phong	262	—
Ha Tinh	247	—
Quang Ninh	186	—
Ha Bac	144	—
Nam Ha	100	—
Vinh Phu	99	—
Yen Bai	91	—
Ninh Binh	75	—
Hai Hung	74	—
Lang Son	73	—
Ha Tay	70	—
Son La	67	—
Bac Thai	59	—
Hoa Binh	41	—
Thai Binh	33	—
Bach Long Vi	23	—
Tuyen Quang	17	—
Nghia Lo	16	—
Lai Chau	14	—
Lao Cai	2	—
	3.731	aircraft

the DRVN in brief

o The DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee in a routine session presided over by its chairman Truong Chinh, took the following decisions:

— Award Labour Medals to the staff of the People's Tribunals of Nghe An province and to 22 units in industry, agriculture, forestry, building, hydraulics, transport and communications, food and foodstuffs, education, health and other administrative and managerial bodies for their achievements in the fulfilment of the 1971 State Plan.

— Award Resistance Medals to 4 units of the "Shock" Song and Dance Ensemble for distinguished services in their tours of the frontline.

The Standing Committee also took a number of decisions relating to the work of the Supreme People's Court.

o After acceptance by the US side to return to the Paris Conference due to be convened on July 13, 1972, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Government delegation to the said conference, left Hanoi for Paris on July 6, 1972.

o On the afternoon of June 30, 1972, the DRVN Embassy in Cuba held a ceremony in the course of which a Labour Medal 3rd class was conferred on Robie Fernandez and a Friendship badge on Augustin Agudin for their services to the DRVN cattle raising.

o The teachers and pupils of the Sekou Toure Technical Middle School in Nam Dinh city have sent a letter to the personnel, teachers and pupils of the Ho Chi Minh Middle School in Guinea to denounce US criminal destruction of their school and express thanks to the Guinean government and people for their decision to help Viet Nam rebuild it.

o The 551st Vanguard Youth Company consisting mainly of young girls (recently commended as a "hero-unit" by the DRVN National Assembly) was entrusted with the task of keeping the traffic open on road section X. There the enemy had dropped 9,000 bombs of various sizes in 364 raids. Nevertheless no member of the company left his or her post and the flow of supplies was maintained. A sense of unity, solidarity and mutual help permeated their work full of creativeness.

During their tour of duty on road section X, the company members succeeded in saving 56 people from being buried by bomb action and in removing 50,000 tons of goods from danger spots into safety. They also prevented hundreds of dwelling houses from being burnt down by US bombs.

o The average speed of a walking man is four kilometres per hour, but fighter Klen's was 7km hour on jungle tracks. He walked 10 days and nights on end and earned the title of "Flying Squirrel of the Long Range." He has set a record in long distance march and speed.

o Up to now, 50 copper ploughshares have been discovered in North Viet Nam. This does not fail to interest those who have at heart national history, since in no other country such an amount of copper plough blades was discovered within so short a time. This proves that the staple of our forebears in the Kings Hung period was rice and that they know how to grow it.

At the Tham Khuyen cave, Binh Gia district, Lang Son province, 6 fossilized human teeth were unearthed. Basing itself on characteristics of the teeth, their forms and sizes, the Institute of Archaeology has dated them as belonging to the Pithecantropus period. This is a direct trace to the most ancient man ever discovered in Viet Nam.

Evidence of Nixon's crime: A dam in Phu Ly and a portion of the dyke in Kim Bang district, Nam Ha province, shattered by US boms

in brief

• Secretary General of the CPSU Leonid Brezhnev declared on June 27: "The war continues to rage in South-East Asia where the heroic Vietnamese people and the people of Laos and Cambodia are fighting for their freedom and independence. We strongly condemn the US aggression. We take strong exception to the US decision to blockade the ports of the DRVN, intensify the bombing of national economic installations, communication lines and population centres... Our wholehearted support and all-round assistance to the Vietnamese people will continue until the triumph of the just cause of Viet Nam."

o Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Yeh Chien-ying declared on June 28: "The intensification of the savage raids by the US imperialists can only exacerbate the hatred of the Vietnamese for them and toughen their determination to resist. US imperialism cannot assess the real strength of the Vietnamese people. Support and assistance for the anti-US resistance for national salvation of the Vietnamese is China's unalterable position. The Vietnamese will surely win complete victory."

o On July 4, more than 1,000 representatives of the management and workers at the lorry repair factory in Prushkov district (Poland) held a meeting of solidarity with the Vietnamese and in protest against US war escalation against North Viet Nam. At the gathering, the representative of Prushkov district handed to Vietnamese officials a quantity of medicaments and a sum of 10,000 *zlotys* as a gift of the people of the district to the Vietnamese.

o Nixon's heinous war crimes in Viet Nam were object of strong protests at a demonstration of more than 20,000 people in Paris and its vicinity on June 29, The shouts "Nixon the fascist murderer!" mingled with other slogans like "Viet Nam: a massacre, Laos: a massacre, Cambodia: a massacre", "Nixon, your hand has been stained with enough blood", "We support Viet Nam till final victory," resounded all through the road leading from Bastille Square to Nation Square on Faubourg Saint Antoine Boulevard. In the van of the march were leaders of 49 political, trade union and social organizations in France who support the anti-US aggression combat for national salvation of the Vietnamese people.

o The campaign called "A rose for Viet Nam" initiated by French women has yielded 120,000 francs according to latest reports, twice as much as planned. This sum was handed to Vietnamese representatives in Paris on June 26.

o By June 23, 1972, the picket in front of the US Embassy in London had entered its 10th week. Five delegations of Britishers from all walks of life have taken part in the protest against US new escalation.

On the evening of June 25, a theatrical performance was held at Mermaid theatre to raise funds for buying medicaments and medical appliances for Viet Nam. Thanks to the assistance of the manager and all the staff of the theatre and the devotion of the actors and actresses, the event brought in more than 1,000 pounds.

o On June 4, hundreds of West Germans joined in a demonstration at Lubeck to urge the Nixon administration to stop its aggression in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. They also demanded that the West German authorities end all support for US aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina.

o Australians infuriated by US crimes in Viet Nam have held a series of demonstrations in front of Perth town hall. On June 30 the protesters threw a smoke bomb which nearly hit US State Secretary William Rogers as he and his wife were coming out of the hotel.

o On July 4, in front of the US Embassy in Stockholm, Swedish demonstrators displayed many flags of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Demoratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Lao Patriotic Front and the National United Front of Kampuchea, burnt US flags and held up decapitated effigies of Nixon, shouting, "We support the PRG seven points", "Viet Nam will win", "Nixon, murderer", "US, stop the bombing now"...

The same day, a similar meeting took place in Hamstad in Southern Sweden. Earlier, on June 29, demonstrations and meetings had been staged in front of the US Embassy and in Goteborg. Protesters smashed on June 29 many windows of the US Embassy.

In response to the resolution of the Political Bureau of the Left Communist Party of Sweden, the Party organization in Northern Sweden collected 20,630 *kronors* within five days for Viet Nam.

o A sit-in sponsored by the "Viet Nam Committee 69" of Denmark took place from 7 p. m. on July 3 to 7 p. m. on July 4 in front of the US Embassy in Copenhagen. The demonstrators lit torches throughout the night of July 3 and sang in chorus the Vietnamese song *Liberate the South.*

On the evening of July 4, the Danish Solidarity with Viet Nam Committee also organized a mass meeting against US escalation of the bombing against North Viet Nam.

o On US Independence Day, large numbers of Finns marched through the main streets of Helsinki to urge the US government to stop its war of aggression in Viet Nam and withdraw all US troops from Indochina.

o Progressive organizations in Norway have stepped up their publicity drive for Viet Nam with many kinds of activity, especially with the screening of Vietnamese films in many places. In the first half of 1972, 370 Viet Nam film shows were given for a total attendance of more than 13,000.

o On July 3, Mrs M. Maluenda, Secretary General of the Chilean Solidarity with Viet Nam Committee, handed to the Embassy of the DRVN in Santiago a sum of 11,000 *ecuadors* from Mrs Olga Poblete, Chairwoman of the Chilean Peace Movement, as a gift to the Vietnamese.

"To unite with Viet Nam is as necessary to us as air is to man," said F. Murinjo, Secretary General of the Chile-Viet Nam Cultural Institute. He called on Chilean public opinion to intensify its condemnation of the aggressive war of US imperialism in Viet Nam.

"INTERNATIONAL LAW WILL HOLD PRESIDENT NIXON RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDAL CRIMES", SAID IADL

NIXON'S new escalation—the mining of the ports and the bombing of dykes in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam—has been under fire from the world's peoples. On June 7, 1972, in Bruxelles, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) issued a strong statement condemning the war act of the US administration.

After pointing out that the dykes along the Red River are protecting not only the cultivation which is vital to the Vietnamese people, but also the life of fourteen million inhabitants in the delta of this river, the statement stressed: "To provoke a total flooding of the delta, one needs to destroy only some dykes on the eve of the June-October spates. The intensified bombings cutting big craters at some distance from the river, can have the same effect as a deep quake. Air strikes of this type have already taken place..."

The IADL pointed out that President Nixon in his statements made so far, has excluded the use of atomic weapons, but the destruction of dykes in this case would produce the same tragic consequences.

"The IADL declares that if due to a series of premeditated bombings which have taken place or are to be carried out, the dykes burst, President Nixon and the US administration will be held responsible for genocidal crimes in the eye of international law."

People in Minneapolis protesting against Nixon's war escalation in Viet Nam

Foreign minister Nguyen Thi Binh visits Italy

AT the invitation of Signor Giudo Fanti, Chairman of the administrative council of Emilia Romagne (North Italy), Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, Head of the delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, paid a goodwill visit to the said region from June 29 to July 3, 1972.

Present at the Milan airport to welcome the South Viet Nam Foreign Minister and other members of her delegation were Signori Guerdioli, member of the Italian Communist Party Central Committee, Baccalini, member of the Italian Parliament; Papacini, member of the Italian Communist Party Central Committee and Secretary of the Regio Emilia City Party Committee and many officials and representatives of mass organizations and Party central and local committees.

During her stay, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh called on the City Council, had cordial talks with representatives of the Italian Support Viet Nam Committee and various solidarity with Viet Nam organizations. She attended a special session of the local administrative council and a meeting held by the people of Regio Emilia city in honour of the delegation to display their solidarity with the people of both South and North Viet Nam and hail the latter's splendid successes. She was present at a cordial reception given by delegates of the three biggest unions of metallurgical workers in Italy, namely the SIDN (CGIL), the SIM (CISL) and the UILM. Besides, the delegation visited Bologna and Ravenna.

Wherever she went, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh got a warm reception from representatives of the local administrations, Party and mass organizations. During their interviews with the delegation, representatives of various strata of the Italian people, and of organizations of different political tendencies and different religions voiced their stern condemnation of the US aggressors' heinous crimes against the Vietnamese, firmly urged the US to end immediately its bombing of North Viet Nam and mining and blockade of her ports, stop the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, bring all US troops home, give a serious response to the seven-point proposal of the RSVN PRG.

FIDEL CASTRO and VIET NAM

Editor's Note. — *Cuban Premier FIDEL CASTRO recently paid goodwill visits to a number of countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. The struggle against US imperialism and support for Viet Nam at this stage of her fight was a main topic in his speeches on this occasion. Here are excerpts from them :*

"WE wonder what length Yankee imperialism is to go to in its aggression against the Vietnamese.

"To what extent can one challenge mankind and undeniably endanger world peace, without any principle, any legal or moral grounds, any chance to bend to one's will, this indomitable people? In virtue of what right is the United States now in Viet Nam? In virtue of what right can it invoke the defence of its honour? In virtue of what right can it demand that brotherly countries stop helping a people against whom the most powerful and highly industrialized imperialist country is deploying all means at its disposal? In virtue of what right can it carry out genocide against a nation?

"In order to withdraw its troops from Viet Nam — where they have nothing to do — it has no moral or legal reason to resort to such methods as may push the whole world to the brink of war.

"Today imperialism is no longer almighty. The balance of forces is no longer favourable to it. 1972 is not 1962. Quislings cannot be saved.

"The honour of the empire — since it is what Mr Nixon often talks about — cannot be saved for the simple reason that it does not exist. A government that has committed the crime of massacring millions of Vietnamese can have no honour..."

(Algeria, May 9)

"IN the past Viet Nam fought against those who oppressed the Algerian people. Now she is fighting against those who are oppressing Cuba, Algeria and other nations.

"The Cuban people's stand with regard to Viet Nam is as follows: **She is fighting not only for Viet Nam, but for the whole world! She is carrying out a battle for the liberation of all nations.** The Vietnamese are making sacrifices and fighting for the Cuban, Latin American, African, Algerian peoples. For this reason, we have declared that for the sake of Viet Nam, we are ready to offer even our blood. The Cuban people are prepared to do anything for Viet Nam. They are already to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese. We know that such are also the sentiments of all revolutionary nations."

(Algeria, May 16)

"IN our opinion, the Vietnamese confronted with the powerful technical and military machinery of the United States, have given evidence of a great courage and intelligence and an unusually revolutionary attitude.

"Militarily, they have proved that the people's war, that relies on the people's support, is invincible.

"To our mind, the Vietnamese are making clear that Vietnamization of the war is a total failure, that mercenary forces are completely demoralized and incapable of resisting the patriots' offensive even with US air support and military aid. In South Viet Nam, besides Yankee troops, there are South Korean troops, Australian troops, and troops from several other countries accomplices of US aggression. Moreover, North VietNam is under systematical bombings.

"But the Vietnamese have proved that patriotism and revolutionary spirit are stronger than all US arsenal. Thanks to the support by the socialist camp, by the Soviet Union, thanks to the aid received in all fields, they have been able to resist the imperialist aggression by making good use of the weapons received. Not only do they not let those weapons be taken but they also manage to disarm Saigon troops...

"Today we want to score the magnitude of US genocide in Viet Nam by giving some figures: for instance they have dropped on Viet Nam 12 million tons of bombs in the last 7 years, that is twice over the amount of explosive used in World War II. In Viet Nam one can find 21 million bomb craters, and in an average, 4,000 tons of bombs are daily dumped on Viet Nam. All that is simply unbelievable.

"Nobody would ever think that a country could stand such a deluge of destructive means. A tonnage of explosive equivalent to the two bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is dumped every five days on Viet Nam. It is well known that the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs had a power of 20 kilotons. Every five days the United States rains on Viet Nam 20 kilotons of explosive.

"Such a crime has revolted the whole mankind. The deployment of the A bombs against Japanese cities had become a moral and military controversy, for it was no long question of military installations but of civilian population. Now in Viet Nam, an equivalent of those bombs is used by the US every five days, and nevertheless the Vietnamese are resisting, fighting, putting to flight mercenary troops and setting a splendid example of courage.

"Viet Nam's heroism, added to the support and weapons from brotherly socialist countries, will surely frustrate Nixon's strategy. That is what we think of the situation. We firmly believe that the Vietnamese people will win and there is no doubt that the Yankee imperialists will have to quit Viet Nam."

(Bulgaria, May 28)

"TODAY, what worries most our Party and people and a major part of world opinion, is Viet Nam.

"Nixon's war adventure and peace manoeuvres are no proofs of US strength, but of its weakness and losing posture. Nixon is under strong fire from progressive mankind on account of his criminal war acts against the Vietnamese people. The Cuban people always stand by the Vietnamese people in their fight. We have sent a team of medical volunteers to Viet Nam. If need be, we will send voluntary fighters to Viet Nam to help defeat the savage US aggressors. **Viet Nam is fighting not only for herself but also for the peace and security of all nations in the world.** The heroic Vietnamese people will win!"

(Hungary, May 31)

IMPERIALISM has never before waged such an unjust and immoral war, so there is no war more just than the Vietnamese people's. Besides, Viet Nam has offered the finest example of heroism in our epoch. Millions of Vietnamese have died for their cause. The Vietnamese people have been enduring the bombing with an unbelievable stamina.

"In the course of their long drawn-out and heroic struggle, they have acquired sterling virtues. They have fought for the good of all peoples, and now what do we see today? The imperialists have climbed new rungs in their war escalation. At present, the air strikes are more intense than ever, Vietnamese ports are mined, Pentagon spokesmen are boasting of their capability to stop all supplies to Viet Nam since the USA has mined ports and since North-American bombers using highly accurate, laser-directed bombs have succeeded in destroying Vietnamese bridges and cutting off communication lines.

"They are bombing energetic resources, dykes, populated localities. In two months they have been endeavouring to deny Viet Nam all fuel, food, medicines, weapons, while North-American convoys have been bringing without let-up war material to Viet Nam.

"The US imperialist government is trying to compel Viet Nam to capitulate, it is trying to stop supplies, intimidate the people and force them to accept the Yankees conditions. That is why it refuses to resume the Paris talks.

"We view such developments with grave and painful concern. War crimes were committed not only in Europe. Viet Nam also knows what war crimes mean. German fascists were not the only war criminals; Yankee fascists are also war criminals.

"For similar crimes, responsible Nazi authorities were put in the dock and sent by the Nuremberg Tribunal to the gallows.

"We express these thoughts so that people may understand what is worrying our people, our Party and the major part of the world's peoples. We say so so that people can understand our people's position with regard to Viet Nam: we are ready to help her in every field and to send fighters to Viet Nam if the need arises.

"We hold that the international revolutionary movement can in no way allow the extermination of the Vietnamese people. It cannot allow such an atrocious genocide against the Vietnamese people.

"We are certain that the Parties, people and leaders of brotherly socialist countries share our feelings and worries. That is why, Comrade Gierek, we are happy to hear you declare that one of the cornerstones of peaceful coexistence is the settlement of the Viet Nam problem on the basis of full respect of the sovereignty of the Indochinese peoples and restoration of their rights. We are happy to hear you declare that Poland, as well as other socialist countries, will grant and continue to grant full support to the Vietnamese people and that they will not only act to consolidate peace but also support the peoples fighting for their own liberation.

"Your words are for us a source of gratification and encouragement, for Viet Nam today supplies a unique opportunity to show our adherence to proletarian internationalism and the principles of Marxism-Leninism."

(Poland, June 6)

"THERE is now a fact rather similar to the partition of Czechoslovakia by the fascists, that is US intervention in Viet Nam. In Czechoslovakia, the Hitler fascists indulged in the Lidice massacre which stirred the whole world. Nowadays in Viet Nam, the My Lai and other massacres and unjustifiable bombings have also been shaking the whole world... No crime can prevent the Vietnamese from winning total victory. Once again, this truth is confirmed by history. The supreme revolutionary heroism of fighters in Viet Nam is also bearing it out. Together with all socialist countries and the national liberation movements, we pledged to fight untiringly, shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese to fulfil our revolutionary task and our internationalist duty."

(Czechoslovakia, June 22)